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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating the current status of each claim and including amendments currently entered as highlighted.

1. (Previously Presented) An intravascular device for minimally invasive deployment within a vessel, the intravascular device comprising:

a delivery system having a lumen defining a feed direction; and

a closed loop of flexible material configured to assume a first state in which said closed loop is folded on itself and straightened to allow delivery through said delivery system, said closed loop being further configured so as to be elastically biased to a predefined curved form such that, when said closed loop is advanced beyond said delivery system, said biasing to a curved form results in deployment of said loop in a direction generally perpendicular to said feed direction and opening of said loop to provide a formation for retention against an inner wall of the vessel,

wherein said formation for retention is circular as viewed along said feed direction and at least partially curved as viewed along a direction perpendicular to said feed direction.

2. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 1, wherein said closed loop is formed from a shape-memory alloy preset to said formation for retention, said closed loop being subsequently deformed to assume said first state prior to insertion within said delivery system.

3. (Original) The intravascular device of claim 2, wherein said alloy is Nitinol.

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4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 1, further comprising an inflatable device mechanically linked to said closed loop.

6. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 1, further comprising an intravascular filter structure mechanically linked to, or integrally formed with, said closed loop.

7. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 1, further comprising a valve member mechanically linked to said closed loop.

8. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 1, wherein said closed loop includes a breakable section.

9. (Previously Presented) The intravascular device of claim 1, wherein a band is mounted on said closed loop.

10. (Original) The intravascular device of claim 9, wherein said band includes at least one inflatable balloon.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The intravascular device of claim 9, wherein the diameter of said band is adjustable.

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13. (Original) The intravascular device of claim 9, wherein said band is a pulmonary artery band.

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A combination of an untethered intravascular device and an associated deployment system for minimally invasive deployment of the untethered intravascular device within a vessel, the combination comprising:

a delivery system having a lumen defining a feed direction; and

an intravascular device having a retention configuration including at least one closed loop of flexible material configured to assume a first state in which said closed loop is folded on itself and substantially straightened to allow delivery through said delivery system, said closed loop being further configured so as to be elastically biased to a predefined curved form such that, when said closed loop is advanced beyond said delivery system, said biasing to a curved form results in deployment of said loop in a direction generally perpendicular to said feed direction and opening of said loop to provide a formation for retention against an inner wall of the vessel,

wherein said intravascular device is an untethered intravascular device configured such that said intravascular device is retained in a given position within the vessel primarily by contact of said at least one loop against the inner wall of the vessel.

16. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said untethered intravascular device is retained in said given position within the vessel exclusively by contact of said at least one loop against an inner wall of the vessel.

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17. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said retention configuration is a non-penetrative retention configuration.

18. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said closed loop is formed from an alloy having superelastic properties at body temperature, said closed ring being pre-shaped to said formation for retention, said closed loop being subsequently deformed to assume said first state prior to insertion within said delivery system.

19. (New) The combination of claim 18, wherein said alloy is Nitinol.

20. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said untethered intravascular device includes an inflatable device mechanically linked to said closed loop.

21. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said untethered intravascular device includes an intravascular filter structure mechanically linked to, or integrally formed with, said closed loop.

22. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said untethered intravascular device includes a valve member mechanically linked to said closed loop.

23. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said closed loop includes a breakable section.

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24. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein a band is mounted on said closed loop.

25. (New) The combination of claim 24, wherein said band includes at least one inflatable balloon.

26. (New) The combination of claim 24, wherein the diameter of said band is adjustable.

27. (New) The combination of claim 24, wherein said band is a pulmonary artery band.

28. (New) The combination of claim 15, wherein said formation for retention is substantially circular as viewed along said feed direction and at least partially curved as viewed along a direction perpendicular to said feed direction.